

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO WHITE HOUSE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) CB, VS

WHITE HOUSE PASS PALM SPRINGS FOR SECRETARY

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AS OF 1600 HRS,
APRIL 5.

1. U.S. COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET NAM TO
CONTINUE

LAST NIGHT THE PACIFIC AREA REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE
F.A.A. ISSUED AN ADVISORY CANCELLING SCHEDULED
U.S. AIR SERVICE TO SAIGON, AND BY EXAMPLE, FOREIGN AIR
SERVICE TO SAIGON WOULD HAVE STOPPED. THE ACTION APPARENT-
LY WAS BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
ON THE CAPABILITIES OF NORTH VIETNAMESE SAM'S AND ON THE
ERRONEOUS BELIEF THAT SABOTAGE WAS SUSPECTED IN THE CRASH
OF THE C5A TRANSPORT CARRYING ORPHANS FROM SAIGON. IN
RESPONSE TO A MEMORANDUM FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF
STATE AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FAA ACTING ADMINISTRA-
TOR, THE RESTRICTION WAS LIFTED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON.

IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S RECOMMENDATION THE DEPT
IS URGING PAN AMERICAN TO INCREASE ITS MID-PACIFIC FLIGHTS
TO SAIGON FROM TWICE WEEKLY TO DAILY.

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2. REFUGEES - GVN MEASURES

AN ESTIMATED 60,000 REFUGEES ARE PRESENTLY AT PHU QUOC

ISLAND OR ENROUTE FROM HAM TAN TODAY. MEANWHILE, THE GVN HAS ORDERED ARVN TO STOP A MASSIVE COLUMN OF REFUGEES ESTIMATED AT 100,000 HEADING SOUTH IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE IN ORDER TO SEPARATE AND RE-GROUP ANY SOLDIERS IN THE CROWD.

3. ORPHANS FLY TO THE U.S.

TWO ORPHAN FLIGHTS CARRYING A TOTAL OF 750 CHILDREN ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TODAY IN SAN FRANCISCO AND SEATTLE. MAC ORPHAN FLIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED TO FLY MORE ORPHANS TO THE U.S. ON APRIL 6 AND 7.

4. FRENCH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON ASSISTANCE TO VIET NAM
EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT GOF HAS DECIDED TO CONTRIBUTE HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH WILL INCLUDE PEOPLE LOCATED IN REGIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE PRG. THE GOF STATEMENT ALSO STRESSED THAT PRESENT SUFFERING "MAKES MORE URGENT THAN EVER THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PARIS ACCORDS, OF A PROCESS LEADING TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. FOR ITS PART, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES THE INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS END." GOF REP LATER TOLD EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER THAT COPY OF MESSAGE WAS BEING DELIVERED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

5. COMMUNIST COMMENT ON VIET NAM SITUATION

MRS. NGUYEN THI BINH, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE "PRG" TOLD REPORTERS IN PARIS: "WHAT THERE MUST BE IS A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BE FOR PEACE: AND WHEN THERE IS, I THINK THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING THE CEASE-FIRE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENTS." FBIS SUMMARY REPORTS THAT BINH SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SHELLING OF SAIGON BY THE ARTILLERY OF THE PRG COULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

IN A SEPARATE COMMENT ON GENERAL KY'S ACTIVITIES, SHE WAS EVASIVE. OTHER PRG SPOKESMEN IN FRANCE SAID "THE THIRD CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCE WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE AND APPROPRIATE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL BEGIN AFTER THE FALL OF THE THIEU REGIME AND THE SETTING UP IN SAIGON OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION REALLY DESIRING PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL HARMONY. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE IN LONDON REPORTEDLY SAID THAT AIRLIFTS OF WAR ORPHANS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WERE ACTS OF "SABOTAGE, TRICKERY AND HYPOCRISY" AND TOLD A REPORTER THAT "IT IS UNHUMANITARIAN TO UPROOT THESE

CHILDREN FROM THEIR HOMELAND."

6. OPERATION EAGLE PULL - CAMBODIA

AMBASSADOR DEAN HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED EVACUATION OF ADDITIONAL CAMBODIANS, WHILE MAINTAINING ONLY A MINIMUM USG STAFF IN PHNOM PENH TO ADMINISTER OUR ONGOING AID SHIPMENTS, IS UNWORKABLE. WE ARE PREPARING AN EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE.

7. CAMBODIA: E&E UPDATE APRIL 5

OUR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH REPORTS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES IS NOW 861. THIS INCLUDES 228 AMERICANS AND 633 ALIEN EVACUEES.

8. ICRC KEEPS PART OF STAFF IN CAMBODIA

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ICRC TEAM PHNOM PENH TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN THAT "HE HAD RECEIVED WORD LAST NIGHT THAT HANOI APPARENTLY HAS ACCEPTED THE ICRC AS ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH IT CAN DO BUSINESS." ACCORDINGLY, THE ICRC REP HAS DECIDED TO KEEP 15 ICRC MEMBERS IN CAMBODIA. THE DIRECTOR OF THE ICRC TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN THAT THE "US EMBASSY HAD FULFILLED ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATION OF ICRC STAFF." DEAN KEPT OPEN, HOWEVER, AN INFORMAL OFFER OF USG ASSISTANCE SHOULD IT BE REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE.

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